

penditure, the valuable enlargement and improvement of plant in many respects, and the fairly low death-rate of the inmates as compared with that of other hospitals for the colored insane.

The arrangements for the preparation and preservation of food was found to be admirable; the newly added cold-storage, dancing-hall, dining-room, as well as other improvements, displayed wise and needful investments of the State funds.

The floors to the halls and most of the wards, made clean by frequent dry-sand scourings, and the walls made white by periodic applications of liquid lime, together with the remarkable absence of dust, gave evidence that neatness and cleanliness were conditions striven for by Dr. Miller and his subordinates.

While, therefore, the buildings and the management are in many respects a credit alike to them and the State, the sanitary condition is not ideal, is not above reasonable criticism.

The white floors, made of soft and inferior wood, certainly in the main building, are worn and rough in many places and further marred by large dirt-filled cracks.

With insane people for your population, such floors must sooner or later, in spite of all effort, become contaminated with feces, sputa, urine and other elements of filth.

Floors made of hard wood properly polished, and with periodic applications of enamel paint, would be well-nigh non-absorbent, easily washed and in every way more healthful.

Walls with smooth hard finish, properly painted, suited to disinfectant sprayings, washings and fumigation, are much to be preferred from a sanitary standpoint.

The mortality in your Hospital for the last twelve months, as we are informed, is a fraction less than 7 per cent., which is much lower than it was last year, and even lower than is usual among the colored insane of other asylums. While it is gratifying to know this, it is a fact sad to realize that *one preventable disease*—tuberculosis—is responsible for about 30 per cent. of this death rate. Two years ago our report showed quite 35 per cent. of your mortality was due to the same cause.

As is known, doubtless, to most if not all of you, tuberculosis is a contagious disease. As a contagion it is slow in its onset, and can, with proper precaution, be avoided even in close proximity with its victim. Its contagion is closely associated with the home, the hospital and the prison. An inclosure of some form is necessary to make it effective. "The house is the granary of the tubercle bacillus. It is the place in which tuberculous matter is kept vital until the bacillus can find a new host." The increasing susceptibility to consumption among the negroes of the South seems to be a well-established fact.